



Alzheimer's State Plan Update, Executive Board  
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, March 16, 2016  
Seven Hills RI  
178 Norwood Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02905

**Attendance:**

Sandra Fournier, Seven Hills  
Christine Gadbois, The Providence Center  
Donna McGowan, Alzheimer's Assoc. of RI  
Daniel McKee, Lieutenant Governor  
Kathleen McKeon, Diocese of Providence

Note: A quorum had been met.

Craig Dwyer and Barbara Goodrich from the Lt. Governor's office were also in attendance.

**Call to Order:**

In the absence of Tom Enright, the meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Lt. Governor Daniel McKee.

**State Plan Implementation Update Report:**

This report had been previously distributed to all members by email. Copies were also available at the meeting. Donna McGowan noted that she had not heard any further from the sub groups Chairs.

**Grants:**

Sub groups have been requested to prioritize their needs but no submissions have been received to date. Lieutenant Governor McKee stated his office can send letters of support for grant requests. Sandy Fournier reported on an available Respite Grant from Brookdale which Kathy McKeon said she may put in for. Kathy informed the group that grants for "Direct Service" are favored because the funds go directly to the people who are caring for others, i.e. caregivers. She added that on the national level, renewal of these funds need congressional support.

**Legal Issues/Safe Driving Initiatives:**

Tom Enright is out of state and unable to attend today's meeting. He issued the following message.

W. Parish Lentz from Barton Gilman has agreed to serve as supervising attorney for the Roger Williams University law students. Roger Williams University has chosen two (2) second year law students to work on DMV issues. Christine Gadbois's daughter, Emily, has also agreed to be involved. A conference call is scheduled for Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to discuss the work to be performed. Next steps will likely be scheduling and planning the work and then reaching out to the DMV through the Lt. Governor's office to discuss potential implementation of the best practices/regulations.

Lt. Governor McKee will speak to his Chief of Staff, Tony Silva, regarding proceeding. Tony is the former head of the DMV.

**Caregivers Update:**

Kathy McKeon reported she held a meeting for the Caregivers subgroup on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. In addition to thanking them for their input and work, she informed them of the formation of the Executive Board and reviewed the State Plan Implementation Update Report. She brought them up-to-date on initiatives and provided the 2015-2016 Pocket Manual "The RI Guide to Services for Senior and Adults with Disabilities" published by RI Division of Elderly Affairs as well as distributing the RIEOHH "Guide for Caregivers". Meetings for this group are now suspended and minutes of the meeting are available.

CareBreaks is a pilot program to offer respite care at the Hope Alzheimer's Center on the first Sunday of April, May and June. Kathy is hoping funding through Tufft's will allow the program to continue.

At the Lt. Governor's request she gave a breakdown of funding which included \$17,000 from DEA and \$136,000 (this used to be \$395,000) from the State's funding through Elderly Affairs. The rest would be Federal Funding.

Kathy said she is trying to match current initiatives to the State Plan and training at The Point is one example. It is also important that 211 is kept up-to-date on information for resources and opportunities available, keeping all the links and pieces in place in order to keep moving forward.

**Ryan Institute Update:**

No members from the Ryan Institute were available to attend as the Institute has been very busy under the direction of the new Director, Paula Grammas. The Lt. Governor noted he feels the Ryan Institute is a good partner and stated he is planning to visit the Institute soon. He also suggested we could hold one of our meetings there if it is more convenient for them.

**Support Letter to Director Fogarty:**

Kathy McKeon sent a draft to Tom Enright for his review and will follow up with Tom as well as send a copy to the Lt. Governor's office.

**Website Update:**

Lt. Governor McKee reported that the staff members is still training and setting up the website and should be ready to launch soon. Donna McGowan stated people are asking for this and they need a place with links to the State Plan, meetings, events, etc.

**New Business:**

Lt. Governor McKee informed the group of the launch of the website Empower RI for significant savings on purchasing energy. This has been an area his office has worked on with the PUC for many months and was also instrumental in eliminating the rate adjustment fee. The website is designed to be very informative and easy to use, and he encourages those present to share this information with the financial staff of their agencies for cost savings.

Christine Gadbois said she has begun a discussion with the behavioral health world regarding the significantly underserved sub-populations with Alzheimer's and dementia. These include those incarcerated as well as those who suffer from severe mental health issues. These groups offer unique challenges in terms of assessment and services need to improve to meet their needs.

Donna McGowan discussed how little training is required for those who encounter and or work with Alzheimer's patients and is hoping to see legislation for mandating more hours of training for police and care facility workers.

**Announcements:**

Lt. Governor McKee will be attending a NLGA conference in Washington, DC on March 23-25 and Alzheimer's Groups as well as some pharmaceutical companies will be there. Donna McGowan said Randy Chapman, and probably Jennifer Rosen as well, will be there from the Alzheimer's Association DC office. The Lt. Governor asked if there was any message this Executive Board wanted to convey, and Donna stated she will send him some information prior to the conference.

The Seven Hills workshop went well but attendance from the Senior Agencies was down. However, three Developmental Development organizations have requested training as of result of the workshop.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 20th at 9:00 am at Seven Hills, 178 Norwood Avenue, Cranston.

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Goodrich  
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel McKee

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